

a1 1. (Amended) In a cellular, broadband wireless digital network an interface system at a designated base station for providing bi-directional, point to multipoint access to network interface units (NIUs) at customer sites within a cellular area and for providing a point to point bi-directional radio access link for intercell communication [to] with [an] a [auxiliary] base station in an adjacent cellular area.

a2 8. (Amended) A system for providing broadband wireless communication over a large geographic area comprising: means for dividing said large geographic area into a plurality of overlapping cellular areas each having a base station [with a transceiver for bi-directional communication with network interface units (NIUs) within each cellular area] and one or more custom sites; and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) Radio Interface Cards (ARICs) at each base station for bi-directional communication with network interface units (NIUs) at the customer sites in said cellular area and for point to point bi-directional intercell radio communication with ARICs in other base stations.

Sub c2 12. (Amended) A system as defined in claim 9 wherein additional ARICs [are] may be implemented as required in order to provide access to additional NIUs [to increase coverage] within each [cell] cellular area .

13. (Amended) A system as defined in claim 10 wherein additional ARICs [are] may be implemented to communicate with [additional] base stations in additional, adjacent cellular areas.

a3 14. (Amended) A method of providing scaleable, broadband wireless access to a large geographic area comprising: dividing said geographic area into cellular areas; providing a base station within each cellular area; and providing ATM Radio Interface Cards (ARICs) at each base station, for communicating with Network Interface Units (NIUs) within said cellular area and for providing a radio access link for bi-directional intercell communication with [to] ARICs in base stations in other cellular areas.

Please add the following claims:

NEW CLAIMS

a4 19. A base station for use in a cell of a cellular, broadband wireless communications network, comprising:

cm a switching system,
first radio interface means integral to the switching system for supporting communications between the base station and one or more network interface units within the cell; and

second radio interface means integral to the switching system for providing an intercell link whereby the base station communicates with a further base station associated with another cell of the network.